

BUSINESS & LABOREXHIBIT NO. 7DATE 2-18-09BILL NO. SB 388PO Box 1951 - 319 Dewey Ave Eureka, Montana 59917
P: 406-297-RDPI (7374) F: 406-297-7794

February 16th, 2009

Montana Senate
Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee
PO Box 2005000
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members;

On behalf of Eureka Rural Development Partners, Board and staff I would like to extend our support of the incumbent workforce training program outlined in SB 388. I see the incumbent workforce training program, piloted in the Billings/Columbus areas last year, filling a critical need in Montana. I fully support the continuation of this program as well as extending it to cover all of Montana.

Eureka Rural Development Partners is a local development organization in North Lincoln County, Montana serving Northwest Montana. We serve Northwest Montana as the Cooperative Development Specialist under the Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) as well as administer the Lincoln County Business and Expansion program (BEAR). Through our work with both the MCDC and the BEAR programs we have identified potential businesses that would greatly benefit from an incumbent workforce training program. It is critical in these economical times that we focus on preserving jobs in Montana and support those businesses that are already invested in our State.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 388.

Sincerely,

Tracy D. McIntyre
Executive Director